Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

An irregularity has been committed, but how to get over the irregularity is the question. If the Council considers that the irregularity is not material and does not affect the merits of the case, why not we proceed?

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

We want the assurance of the President on the point. Then we will follow the rules as far as possible.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

May I know, Sir, what will become of the first 3 resolutions?

President.—As I have pointed out in the opening speech, we can go on with their discussion in the next meeting, and they will be ready by that time.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

For the next meeting there will be another balloting coming on, and I think they will have precedence over this.

President.—Are we to ballot the resolutions again? My view of the matter is to finish the resolutions remaining and then to take up the fresh ones.

Mr. K T. MATHEW.

All these resolutions will have precedence—all that we have tabled—and will be taken up in due order at the next meeting. That policy will be followed.

President.—We shall then proceed with Mr. Achyuta Menon's resolution.

The Construction of a Building for the Legislative Council.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

Sir, I beg to move the following resolution tabled in my name:—

"That this Council recommends that the Government will be pleased to take early steps for the construction of a building in a suitable locality and especially designed for the purpose to locate this Council, the present building being reserved for the purpose for which it was originally intended, and that a Committee consisting of the following members be appointed to select a proper site and suggest a suitable type and design of building: "Messrs. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar, C. Matthai, V. K. Aravindaksha Menon, A. B. Salem and the mover."

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In his reply to the people's address of congratulation on the occasion of his *Shashtipurthi*, His Highness the Ex-Maharaja said, *inter alia*, "You are aware that I intend a Town Hall to be erected at Ernakulam and to give it for the benefit of the public. I trust that this supplies a real want of the place, and will be appreciated by the people." The hall in which we are now met is the material realisation of that gracious announcement. According to His Highness' idea, one wing of the building was to be used for locating the Public Library and Reading Room, and the other for a Museum, while the central hall was to be utilised for public meetings, theatricals and other entertainments. The idea of the Museum was subsequently given up, as Trichur was considered a more suitable place for the purpose. The hall was to have been vested in a Board of Trustees, consisting of eight resident and seven non-resident members. The members were actually nominated, and their names gazetted; four of these are now members of this Council. In the Diwan's Proceedings issued on the subject, detailed instructions were given to the Diwan Peishkar for drawing up the Deed of Trust in consultation with the Government Advocate. I do not know if this Deed was drawn up and executed. Apparently, it was not.

The construction of the building was delayed for an unconscionably long time, and in this long delay the original idea was apparently lost sight of. The fact remains none the less that the building was intended as a gift to the public, and the public is entitled to have it. I trust that the Government will look into the matter, and see their way to giving effect to the liberal intention of the illustrious donor.

Apart from this consideration, I would submit that this building is far from being an ideal one for the purposes of this Council. We have, no doubt, a good and spacious hall, and the newly constructed verandahs sufficiently protect us from the inclemencies of the weather. But the building does not afford all the conveniences which the members have a right to expect. A Legislative Council building should have, besides the meeting hall, a special room for the President, a room for the Secretary, and one for his Office, a common room or two for the members, a room or two for party consultations, a Library and a Reading Room, a refreshment room or two, and a special room for lady members. These are the minimum requirements and we know that this building does not meet them adequately. I

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would therefore urge the construction of a suitable building for the Council at an early date.

The selection of a suitable site for the suggested building and the choice of a suitable design appear to me to require careful consideration and discussion. That is why I recommend the appointment of a Committee. I do not however suggest that the work should be carried out at once without any regard to the financial exigencies of the State. The plan and estimate may be prepared and sanctioned in the course of this year, and the work started as early as convenient, the payment being spread over two or three years. In the meantime, the Deed of Trust may be executed without further delay, and the building handed over to the Board of Trustees, subject of course to the condition that the right of the Council to its use is paramount till the new building is constructed.

PRESIDENT.

I have received notice of two amendments. They may be moved after the resolution is seconded. Till it is seconded, it is not before the House.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

Sir, I beg to second the resolution.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

This is the time for moving the amendment.

President.—Those who have given notice of amendments may move them.

Dr. A. G. Menon had given notice of the following amendment :—

"To add the words 'at Trichur' after 'in a suitable locality' and before 'and especially designed, etc.'"

He did not move the same, and hence it was deemed to have been withdrawn.

Mr. S. S. KODER.

I beg to move the following amendment :—

"To change the comma into a semi-colon after the word 'intended,' and to omit all the words after that; and to substitute in their place the following words: 'and to name the Hall, if and when built, as "Sir Rama Varma Council Hall" after His Highness the present Maharaja of Cochin, and to place in it a marble or bronze statue of His Highness",

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May I say a few words in moving this amendment? In moving this amendment all that I have to say is that we should call the hall by the name of our beloved Highness, and we should also place in it a marble or a bronze statue of His Highness. As to the removal of this Committee, the reason is simply because most of them are official members. If the Government thinks that this is to be done, they will and must do all they can. There is no necessity to have non-official members on the Committee, it being purely an administrative matter of detail.

President.—No Committee is required?

Mr. S. S. KODER.

I think a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials can be dispensed with. It is not required.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

Mr. Koder's amendment is not seconded.

Mr. T. K. KRISHNA MENON.

Sir, I second the amendment. The amendment is carefully worded. It does not ask the Government to spend any money on the construction of a new building. The harbour and the industrial and economic development of the country will demand all the funds which the Darbar can spare in the near future. So, all that the amendment recommends is that if and when you build a new hall, it may be called by a particular name.

Then it seeks to omit the formation of the Committee contemplated by the original resolution. I think a Committee is quite unnecessary. Are the members to rove about the State for the selection of a site? The official members are bound to help the Government even though they are not members of the Committee. All of us can send in our suggestions about the site and plan of the proposed hall to the Government. This procedure will cost each of us only six pies; whereas, the expenses on account of the Committee may come to a large amount. The mover of the resolution is not a novice in these matters; he is an old stager; and I believe, it is with a twinkling of his eyes that he put in the name of Mr. Matthai to suggest that the members require a little more schooling, so that they may not ask unnecessary questions and move useless resolutions.

Thirdly, the amendment refers to the name and statue. It is but fit and proper that we should have such a standing monument to the loyalty and patriotism which are the birthright of every loyal Cochinite. With us "the divinity that doth hedge a king" is no worn-out fiction but a deep and living convic-

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tion. The truth of this is obvious to all students of Cochin History.

Sometimes, it has been said that it was the oppressive rule of the English Kings which led to the growth of freedom in England. The vices of John and his heavy yoke gave England her Charter; the weakness and oppression of Henry III gave her the Parliamentary Government.

But here, we owe our freedom, our very existence to the strength of our Rulers, to their self-sacrifice, to the abiding love to their country and to their people. Simple in their habits, but true and enthusiastic in their love of justice and of the plighted word, fatherly in the love of their subjects. It is doubtful if any country owes more to her Rulers than Cochin does to her.

It is true, Sir, that of late, some young men who know little and some old who pretend to know more and who all forget that honesty and fairness are essential equipments to public men and journalists have made it a fashion, now and then, to belittle the members of our Ruling Family and those related to them. At times, even to the Rulers they unknightly deny that traditional, that old-world respect and courtesy. Aye! even the present Ruler is not spared, one 'who spoke no slander, no, nor listen'd to it', who through all this tract of years has 'worn the white flower of a blameless life before a thousand peering littlenesses', whose gentle forbearance and lofty patriotism and whose eager desire to take the country through reasoned progress to the great things to be have already become well-known in our dear little land.

The unclean minds of these young and old, and the more unclean tastes they try to create and to which they then seek to cater, batter in vain against the bulwarks of purity and love which protect our benign Sovereign, and hostile animadversion has in the end been hushed by the truth that His action is upright and His rule just. 'For whatever records leap to light, he shall not be shamed.'

It is but meet then that an edifice to house the Council, the creation of which marks a constitutional advance, should be named after the great and good Ruler to whose foresight and statesmanship it owes its birth, and that edifice should house His statute, so that posterity may see His likeness and worship it. (*Hear, hear.*)

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Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

Sir, I whole-heartedly accept the amendment and endorse every word of the Secretary except those that have reference to the twinkling of my eyes.

President.—This building was reserved for public purposes. It was originally intended to have the Museum here but it was removed to Trichur. There is the Library and then the whole of down-stairs is also used for public purposes. What is the objection now.?

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

It was intended that the whole should be handed over for common purposes. It has not been given for public purposes like public meetings, etc.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

I rise to a point of order. There is no proivision for a mover to accept an amendment. S. O. 50 (1).

President.—Mr. Achyuta Menon, you just accepted the amendment. Can you do so? What is your authority for it? Is there anything prohibiting such a course?

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

The amendment has to be put to the Council and not to the mover. When a mover seconds an amendment, the resolution itself will be a different thing.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

I did not think of any rule, but about the ordinary practice.

President.—This will be tantamount to withdrawal of the amendment. Then this resolution has no place. Does it not come to that? The amendment will then become part of the resolution.

Dr. A. G. MENON

The spirit of the whole resolution goes. Some may be for the amendment and some may be for the original proposition. If the proposition be compromised between the proposer and the gentleman who proposed the amendment, and if they agree, they can make the proposition a different one. So both of them should be separately voted.

President.—So it is left to my discretion. I think there is nothing in the Standing Orders allowing the mover to accept an amendment. The resolution may stand as it is, and the amendment may stand as it is. They should be independently voted. It is open to the President to put to the vote first either the resolution or the amendment.

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Mr. K. S. RAMA AYYAR.

Sir, I rise to oppose the motion.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON.

A point of order, Sir. Is the proposition an amendment to the resolution?

President.—We were considering the mode of proceeding with the resolution in this case. We just wanted to know how he can accept the amendment, and whether it is not the right of the House to accept the amendment. I was throwing out these suggestions to Mr. Achyuta Menon.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

Is the amendment under discussion?

President.—The whole thing is under discussion, the resolution and the amendment.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

More than one resolution is brought forward, neither the resolution separately nor the amendment separately.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL.

May I know, Sir, whether the Government is in a position to furnish the House with any information regarding the purpose for which the present building was originally intended?

Dr. A. R. MENON.

The speaker refers to the purpose. In answer to the question by Mr. Salem, the Government has stated on page 2 of the Interpellations, dated the 8th of December 1925, question No. 29, that the Town Hall was built in commemoration of the Shashtipurthi of His Highness Raja Sir Sri Rama Varma G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., Ex-Maharaja of Cochin. The building is used for holding the Public Library, the Legislative Council meetings, &c. But the member for Mulakunnattukavu, in the course of his speech in moving the resolution, referred to some purpose. We desire to know that.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL.

Sir, may I know, from the Secretary to the Government, whether there is any record to show the object of the trust, referred to in the resolution?

President.—Are you in a position to give the information asked for?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

The Chief Engineer is in possession of the papers.

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Mr. V. K. ARAVINDAKSHA MENON.

I shall read the 'Proceedings' of the Government, on the subject, when my turn comes.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL.

I am constrained to oppose the resolution. The Government Proceedings make no reference to the definite purpose alleged in the resolution. There might have been a general understanding among the members of the Shashtipurthi Memorial Committee to that effect. I yield to none in my loyalty to the Maharaja, and I hold the Ex-Maharaja, in great esteem and respect. But in view of our present financial difficulties, I do not consider it desirable to go in for the luxury of another costly building to hold the meetings of the Legislative Council. The present building was meant to commemorate the Shashtipurthi Thirunāl of H. H. Sir Sri Rama Varma, Ex-Maharaja, and both the Museum and the Ernakulam Library were meant to be located in it. The Library has already been shifted to this building, and fortunately or unfortunately, the Museum is still located at Trichur. The Legislative Council was a boon, promised to the people by the Ex-Maharaja, and unless there be technical objections, this building would certainly be the fittest place to hold the meetings of the Legislative Council. This may not be an ideal Hall, but I fancy that its accoustic properties are tolerably good, and it is sufficiently spacious. Any necessary additions may yet be made to this building. I may, in this connection, refer to a speech delivered by the late Diwan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai, under the distinguished presidency of H. E. Lord Willingdon. The noble edifice in which the House of Commons is located was designed and constructed many years ago to seat 450 members. At present, there are about 700 members in the House of Commons, and naturally accommodation is scanty. In spite of inconvenience, the majority of the members oppose the extension of the building, as also the idea of shifting it to some other place. Antiquity and hoary associations, have a strong hold on them. To us this place is sacred, as the place where we held our first budget session, and unless there be overwhelming objections to continue our sittings here, I would object to a change. In view also of the unsatisfactory condition of State finance, I would, though with reluctance, oppose the resolution.

Mr. K. S. RAMA AYYAR.

I oppose the motion. The State has lost much money during the past few years. The Government thoughtlessly launched itself into several speculations. That is one thing. There have

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been several unfortunate defalcations. That is two. And in the matter of charges of administration there has been no attempt to reduce the expenditure or to fix a limit. That is three. These are well-known things and no details are necessary. I say, therefore, that, after this experience, we must follow the principle of absolute necessity in allowing expenses. There are several important items waiting for the consideration of the Government relating to the material development of the State. All these will require money. So money has to be saved. It must be saved even at the risk of some inconvenience. That is our position now.

The member for Mulakunnattukavu moves for the construction of a building in a suitable locality and especially designed for the purpose to locate this Council. Now, we are here and we have a building. The locality is for no reason unsuitable. In fact it stands in a most suitable locality. This building was not designed for this purpose. That is true. But that is not reason enough to think of finding out another building for us. The member says it was intended for something else. It might have been. But at that time there was no Legislative Council, and now there is no institution in the State more important than this Council. This House was built out of Government funds, whatever it might be originally designed for, and after the location of the Legislative Council here, a very large sum of money seems to have been spent in making additions, alterations and improvements. We were in want of a building for the Legislative Council—in absolute want of it—and we have got it very easily, as there was one built at a large cost and lying almost idle, although it was intended for certain other purposes There the matter of a building for the Legislative Council ends. When the building is found insufficient for the purposes of the Legislative Council, we shall have to think of some other arrangement for us. But as we have one now, let us put by such questions and think of more important things which require more serious attention. For the present, let us be satisfied with what we have. It must also be noted that we have not committed any very serious blunder, if at all in having occupied this building, whatever might be the purpose for which it was originally intended.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

I rise to oppose the resolution, Sir. Although I am in full agreement with the mover of the resolution that a buildind specially designed for the purpose to locate this Council shoulg

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be constructed, on financial and other grounds which I shall explain, I regret to say that I rise to oppose the resolution. The budget submitted to this House at the last session disclosed that we have not a heavy balance to spend for buildings. The construction of a building designed for the purpose to locate this Council, as the mover put it, will cause a large sum of money, and I am afraid that our present financial position does not permit us to embark on such a scheme. This is a time for drastic retrenchment in all possible ways without impairing the efficiency of the administration, and sacrificing, if necessary, a little convenience and comfort, and it was because of all this the mover of the resolution pointed out while discussing the budget that a Retrenchment Committee should be appointed, and many other members spoke in support of it, and the Government agreed to do so. At this time, therefore, our whole attention should be directed towards economising all expenses, and it is the duty of the representatives of the people who have gathered here to set an example in this direction. If we propose buildings to be put up for our convenience and comfort and sanction money for this purpose, you will be setting a bad example. Till we succeed in tapping other resources, I hold that the proposal to construct a building for the Council should be postponed.

Further, in the near future we will be faced with many problems, the solution of which will cause heavy expenditure. We have to give our serious consideration to problems connected with the introduction of free Primary education, elevation of the depressed classes, rural reconstruction, opening of new communications, development of irrigation, increasing the pay of low-paid subordinate officials, and all these will cause heavy expenditure. Again, we have to tackle in right earnest the Excise problem. We are now getting a large amount from the Excise Department, but this income will dwindle in a few years. The Excise Committee, which the Government have promised to appoint, when formed, is very likely to advise restriction of liquor traffic, and this will bring about a reduction in income. On these reasons also, I beg to propose that the question of constructing a building for locating the Council should be deferred.

In Travancore and Mysore, besides a Legislative Council, there is a Representative Assembly, and these representative institutions have been there in existence for many years, and yet those States, in spite of their vast resources, have not constructed separate buildings for locating the Council. Here we have no Representative Assembly, and our Council meetings are few and far between, and so I do not find the immediate necessity of a

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building for locating the Council. Even in Madras, the members of the Council are suffering from want of sufficient accommodation, and yet we find them, as true representatives of the people, looking more to the interests of the people than to their own comforts and convenience. May I say, Sir, this is also what we should do here?

It is proposed as an amendment that the new building to be constructed should be named as "the Sir Rama Varma Council Hall" after His Highness the present Maharaja of Cochin and to place in it a marble statue of His Highness—a very good suggestion. This Council is a boon from our gracious Highness, and so long as this Council lives (and there is every reason to think that it will live long with wider powers), no better monument than this Council we could erect in commemoration of the reign of His Highness. May our prayers, therefore, be: "Let this Council live long and with more extensive powers and be a source of happiness and prosperity to all classes of His Highness' subjects".

I desire further to point out that our loyalty to His Highness should be given expression to, not by requesting the Government to spend the revenue collected for administrative purposes for putting up a memorial to His Highness, but by our doing something to that effect. Our Highness has at heart the true welfare of His subjects, and therefore, He will be be more pleased to utilise the revenue collected for the good of the people at large, than to utilise it for constructing a building to commemorate the reign of His Highness. Our deep loyalty to and esteem of His Highness must be spontaneous and given expression to by collecting funds from the public for putting up a Council Hall and then naming that hall as "Sir Rama Varma Hall", after His Highness. His Highness was sympethetic enough to introduce this Council with a view to associate the people in the administration of the State, and it is our duty, the duty of all loyal subjects of His Highness, to raise a memorial to commemorate His Highness' reign, and it is only in the fitness of things that that memorial should take the form of a Council Hall, the name of His Highness being attached to it. Let me, therefore, say that, as loyal subjects of His Gracious Highness, we should give expression to our deep loyalty and high esteem and veneration to His Highness by voluntarily and liberally contributing towards the construction of a Council Hall, called after His Highness' name, and the erection of a marble statue of His Highness inside the Council Hall.

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Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR.

Sir, I strongly oppose this resolution. The present building is quite suitable, if not as suitable as the mover represented, and it can be made very easily suitable.

President.—I shall welcome all additions that are necessary to make it as suitable as possible. Would you give suggestions in your speech?

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR:

We require one or two rooms, Sir, from my point of view, instead of having a new building. By spending that amount, I think we can have electric punkas, electric lights, cushions and fans. So we do not want a new building, and the present building is quite suitable for the Council to meet, in view of the fact that the sittings of the Council will not, on the whole, exceed 30 days in a year, or a month and a half. No serious inconvenience can be caused by using the very same building.

Then I am not at all for appointing a Committee. Our present Chief Engineer, our young energetic Chief Engineer, is competent enough to find a suitable site and have a suitable building. Even if a building has to be put up, a Committee is not required. It would be a bad precedent if a Committee is appointed to construct a building. Even for constructing schools, hospitals and courts, where so many thousands of people have to congregate, no Committee is appointed. So, if a Committee is appointed for this special purpose, then, demands will come for Committees whenever Government has to construct buildings. So I oppose this resolution.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

I oppose this motion. My idea is that this Council should hold its sittings in different parts of the country. That will give an opportunity to the people to know what is being done in this Council, and the members of this Council will also be able to know the special needs of the different localities. We can put up temporary *pandals*. Except the budget session, where reference to Government papers are necessary, the other sessions can be held in different parts of the country. In Trichur we have got a building where meetings can be held. In Chittur also there is a Town Hall. Where is the necessity for all these buildings? We had to spend Rs. 20,000 for making additions.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

The Chittur Town Hall is only one-fourth of this Hall, and not more than 20 persons can be accommodated in it. There

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the Council cannot be accommodated. I say this for his information, and we have already spent more than Rs. 25,000.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

The Hon'ble Member for Nellayi wants electric cushions. I don't know what is meant by electric cushions.

President.—He said electric lights and *punkas*, but not cushions.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

I strongly oppose the main resolution. If the amendment of the resolution is to be carried, I am for the amendment. I am second to none in my loyalty to His Highness the Maharaja. With these few words, I oppose the motion.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

Sir, I oppose the resolution and I oppose the amendment, because, when the resolution goes away, the amendment must also necessarily go away, and not because I am any the less loyal. I am probably one of the most loyal subjects of His Highness the Maharaja. For some of the Hon'ble Members of the House it may be very uncomfortable to sit on this wooden chair. It might be necessary to supply them with better and more comfortable materials. I am not going to say, as the Hon'ble Member for Nellayi suggested, that electric lights or electric cushions, if there are any such, should be supplied. But we may have a little more comfort if possible.

President.—Then, would cane chairs suit you?

Mr. S. S. KODER.

Cushions it is that are really wanted.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

For my part, I don't complain of any of the discomforts here.

President.—If we can make these conveniences necessary for the members, why should we cause such inconvenience?

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

What I submit is only that it will be unnecessary to incur a very heavy item of expenditure for the purpose of constructing a new building for holding this Legislative Council. We have got more urgent necessities, as several of the non-official members have already said. There is the education of the depressed classes. We will have no comfort to sit on easy chairs here, when the poor people who are wandering through the streets

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without proper education or proper culture, commit all sorts of atrocities. If we have any money to spare, it will be only our legitimate duty to utilise that money for the welfare of the people. Now, the most urgent necessity is to give greater facilities for the education of the depressed classes, to construct better roads and to give better water supply, &c. All these are more pressing needs in our State; and only after satisfying all these needs, if we have greater surplus of money—which we can hope there will be—we will be entitled to think of constructing a better building for the holding of this Legislative Council in a more grand style. It should not be understood that I am against making any additions or improvements to this very Hall. but it would be a superfluity, under the straitened circumstances that we are now in, to go in for a more luxurious mansion. So it is that I object to the proposition and the amendment.

Mr GEORGE CHAKYAMURI.

Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. I also think that we are quite comfortable off here, and we do not require any other building for our accommodation. In Travancore also they hold the Legislative Council meetings in the Town Hall. There is nothing to be considered then, as long as we are as much comfortably located as the Travancore Council. The Hon'ble mover of the resolution stated that it is a diversion of the trust of the present building, if it is used to hold the meetings of the Legislative Council. I do not think it will be, if the Hall is used for the Legislative Council. His Highness' wish at heart is the welfare of his people, and according to the wish of His Highness the Maharaja, if it is used for the benefit of the public, and if we sit in this Hall and deliberate over important matters of the State, it will not be a diversion of trust. We members sit here and deliberate over important matters of the State. After all, we sit here about 20 or 30 days in a year. It will not be a serious inconvenience to the public, if we made use of this Hall for Council purposes. With these observations, I oppose the motion.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

Sir, I oppose the resolution and the amendment. It is indeed a painful duty to have to oppose a resolution moved by the Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnattukavu who stands next to none in point of administrative wisdom or experience. But unfortunately, the resolution has to be opposed for want of funds. The Hon'ble mover argued that it is a diversion of trust to utilise this Hall for the meetings of the Legislative

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Council. But when once it is admitted that the Hall is to be used for public functions, then none can question the right of the representatives of the public to meet here. I do not think any one would oppose it. My second ground is that we have no funds. Cochin is a poor State. The people whom we represent are undergoing many inconveniences. In the palmy days that are to come with the Harbour in full working we shall certainly have all conveniences, nay, even luxuries. I oppose the amendment also. Of course, it is more painful to oppose an amendment to move which its mover was prompted by feelings of loyalty. Loyalty, certainly, is not any one's monopoly. It is the proud and privileged possession of even the lowliest man in the street (*Hear, hear*). Nobody need preach to His Highness' subjects that they should be loyal. I have not yet heard of the phenomenon which turns youths and old men into disloyal citizens. Sir, for the matter of that, everyone in Cochin is as loyal as the most loyal member of this House, including the seconder of the amendment. I oppose this amendment on a point of principle. Standing order No. 24 lays down that "An amendment must be relevant to and within the scope of the subject-matter of the clause or motion to which it relates." That the bust of His Highness must be placed in the Hall or that the Hall must be named after His Highness are not matters within the purview of this resolution. The amendment is not, in my opinion, within the scope of the subject matter of the resolution.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Sir, I rise to a point of order. Has not the President the power to allow and admit amendments, and if it is admitted by the President is it not open for the Council to discuss it? The amendment has been admitted by the President.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

I oppose the amendment on that ground. It is not within the scope of the subject matter of the resolution. The people should be taught to be loyal, not by keeping marble busts or better ones still, but by a wise administration selflessly working to make their lot better.

Mr. O. R. CHUMMAR.

Sir, I oppose the motion. I feel no doubt that it is neither necessary nor expedient to undertake the construction of a new building for the Council at this time. The hall that we have now is sufficiently large to accommodate all of us in the most convenient manner. It has also room enough for any number of

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visitors. We have also got separate rooms for the President and for the Council Office. We have in this building even refreshment rooms for different communities. The building has in fact sufficient accommodation for all the requirements referred to by the mover, and I think it is not at all necessary to construct a new building for the Council in these hard days when the Government are not undertaking even works of absolute necessity for want of funds. I even believe that, if I support this resolution for lavishing money upon the construction of an unncessary building, I would be a traitor to the constituency that elected me. In answer to one of the questions that I put, it was said that certain bridges that were considered to be absolutely necessary, and which had drawn the attention of the Government for a long time, have not been undertaken, simply for want of funds. I refer to some bridges in the Vellarappalli Constituency which I have the honour to represent. In the villages of Chowwara, Vadakkumbhagam, &c., which consist of 5 or 6 villages, there is only one road, and that is intersected by four or five small canals. There is no other means of communication. There is indeed a river, but that is worse than useless in the rainy season owing to floods, and in summer it dries up. Thus the road above referred to is the only means of communication in those parts, and that is rendered practically useless owing to the canals that cut across it. Owing to the want of bridges, no sort of conveyance can be used there. The people in these places are suffering immensely. I had myself some experience of their suffering during the election time, when I had to walk from the Chowwara Railway Station right up to Malayattur, a distance of about 15 or 20 miles— all that because no vehicles can be used on that road. The Government also have fully realised the urgent necessity of constructing these bridges, but, owing to lack of funds, the work has not been undertaken. When we find that works of such absolute necessity are not undertaken for want of funds, I think it would be folly to pass this resolution. With these remarks, therefore, I oppose the resolution.

Mr. V. K. ARAVINDAKSHA MENON.

The Rama Varma Town Hall was constructed in commemoration of the auspicious occasion of the Shashtipurthi Thirunāl in 1088 of His Highness Raja Sri Sir Rama Varma, the Maharaja of Cochin. The Town Hall, as originally conceived, was to consist of a central Lecture Hall and two wings, one of which was to house the Ernakulam Public Library and the other the State Museum.

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On further consideration, however, it was thought advisable to locate the Museum and the Zoo at Trichur, and they doubtless formed a very interesting and happy combination. Trichur, on account of its pretty setting and good climate, undoubtedly proved to be a more desirable place than Ernakulam for these institutions. If, therefore, this resolution is to be passed, the Museum may have to be first separated from the Zoo and then shifted to Ernakulam. It would indeed seem a pity to attempt to do this, especially at a time when the Trichur Museum is growing in popularity.

The Public Library still continues to be here and is located upstairs. Its utility will not be impaired to any great extent on account of the Council sittings. Proposals, however, are under consideration to remove even the slight inconveniences, if any, on this account by providing a separate building for housing the Library.

As regards the Auditorium, I may mention that public lectures in this Hall have hitherto been not very many, in fact very few indeed. This building being used for Legislative Council meetings will not operate as a bar to its being used for important public lectures during times when the Council does not sit.

The present Town Hall with its recent additions sufficiently meets the requirements of the Council, though it is not specially designed for it. A very large sum of more than Rs.1,40,000 (Rupees one lakh and forty thousand) has been spent on this building, and to go in for a similar expenditure again seems inadvisable, especially when the work, if undertaken, will be one for which there is at present no real necessity. This is all the more evident when we consider that these are times of poverty, tight money markets and excessive demands from Industries, Agriculture and Communications. These are times when money ought to be spent with great care so as to relieve as far as possible unemployment and famine. In my opinion, Sir, we ought to wait for better times to embark on a scheme of constructing buildings of such a nature.

In conclusion, I may say that one of the boons granted to the people on the Shashtipurthi Thirunāl of 1088 was the introduction of a measure of constitutional reform. That wish of His Highness the Maharaja was given practical effect to only last year by the inauguration of this first Legislative Council in Cochin. For holding such a Council, could the House think of a more fit and suitable place than the Rama Varma

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Public Hall built in commemoration of the Shashtipurthi of His Highness the Maharaja who first announced the boon?

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Sir, I rise to oppose the construction of a hall. I perfectly agree with the Hon'ble Member for the Public Works Department in saying that these are hard times of poverty when the Government should exercise great caution. My great regret, however, is that after a large sum of money was spent for the construction of a Leper Asylum already built; there is going to be another. I think, after having heard what fell from the lips of the Hon'ble Member for Public Works, the Chief Engineer, the Government will not hesitate to reconsider the scheme on which they have to spend much of public money. When the consideration of spending the money comes before them, I hope they will consider the weighty observations of the Chief Engineer regarding these hard times, etc., and it is the same consideration that makes me rise to oppose this resolution.

The question of constructing a new Legislative Council building may be considered when "better times turn up," to use the words of the ex-Secretary to the Government. That is the reason why I oppose the resolution. Otherwise, I would certainly have supported the resolution. I came to the hall with the intention of supporting the resolution. But after having had the advantage of hearing the Chief Engineer, I have changed my opinion (*Laughter*) upon the question of economy; and therefore, I hope the mover will also change his opinion. Government will also change their opinion with regard to the Anappara Leper Asylum. With these few words, I rise to oppose the resolution for the construction of a new hall anywhere in the whole State.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR.

Sir, I second it.

President.—The question before the House is that the debate on the resolution for the construction of a new building to accommodate the Legislative Council be immediately terminated. This is a closure motion.

The motion was then put to the vote and carried.

President.—You may exercise your right of reply.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

Sir, I waive my right of reply.

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President.—Under Standing Order 51, it is within the discretion of the President to put first to the vote either the original motion or any amendment which may have been brought forward. I put the original resolution to the vote of the House.

It was lost and the amendment was declared lost.

Order of Resolutions to be taken up.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR.

A point of order. There is a ruling made by the President that a resolution hereafter to be taken up in this meeting will be in the order of the ballot. That is, there is the ballot order for the resolutions tabled for this meeting, and all the resolutions will have to be exhausted before the resolutions sent in for the next meeting must be taken. I shall quote the rules in connection with these resolutions. Vide Standing Order 6, clause 2, and the rules framed thereunder on page 49 of the *Manual*, and in Standing Order 6, clause 1, it is stated that the Diwan, after considering the state of business of the Council, shall, at the commencement of each session, allot as many days as are in his opinion compatible with public interests for the business of the non-official members in the Council, and may, from time to time, during the session, alter such allotment, and on these days such business shall have precedence. At all other times, Government business shall have precedence. At times when Government business has precedence, the Secretary may arrange the business of the Council in such manner as the Diwan may direct.

So that for our meetings the members are given 15 days' time for submitting the resolutions, and the Secretary is to place all these before the members a week before the meeting day—all the resolutions which he has received up-to-date. Hence all the resolutions received previous to this meeting and also subsequent to this meeting till two weeks before the next meeting will have to be placed on the table and ballotted next time.

President.—Is it your point that a resolution which has already been ballotted should be ballotted again?

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR.

Otherwise, I think there will be 70 or 80 resolutions now, and we may probably be able to take up only four or five resolutions during this meeting, and all these will have to be exhausted.

President.—These will not lapse as in the case of the last session, so that at the next meeting all these will come in order.

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